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EDITORIAL NOTES.

OUR JOURNAL.

The organization of the Illinois State Historical Society, in 1899, had the effect of arousing in our State a new interest in its past history as well as in historical matters generally. The very creditable efforts of the society in reviving and stimulating that public interest have been rewarded, among other results, by additions to our historical literature, within the decade just ended. of many monographs and volumes of great value in that line. Diligent research thus incited has brought to light and placed in permanent form invaluable facts connected with the social, political and economic progress of the State, and numerous biographical sketches of noted persons to whose agency much of that progress was due, that but for the influence exerted by the society would probably have lapsed, with failing memory, in forgetfulness beyond recovery.

The working force of the society, including its officers and board of directors, now comprises almost a thousand members—citizens of the highest intelligence and education—all of whom are (or should be) intent upon promoting its work and future usefulness. The Annual Transactions of the Society, often unavoidably and unreasonably delayed in publication, having been found inadequate for the proper and satisfactory dissemination among the people of the aims and labors of the Society and trend of current history of the State, this Journal was projected to supply that want. Thus far the periodi-

cal has been in but the experimental stage, without well-considered plan or system, and received but meagre support in its management. Its permanency being now assumed, it will be further improved, and, with succeeding numbers, its former defects remedied, until the required standard of excellence is fully attained.

In order to accomplish this not only the good will, but the material assistance of its readers is needed. The members of the Society particularly are requested to contribute to the Journal papers, biographies, and news items pertaining to Illinois current history, or descriptive of the physical, educational, political, religious and industrial advancement of the State appropriate to its pages, and in furtherance of its purposes. Manuscripts of early dates, old letters quaint old court records and unpublished scraps of history that authors can not well use in the books they are writing, are especially wanted. Contributors will be given full credit for what they send, preferably (to us) by their signature attached to the articles for publication. Brief notices of the death of old pioneers, and narratives of events and incidents connected with the early settlement of the State are requested, and—in a word—it is our purpose to make the Journal the depository and the exponent of all that is most interesting in the annals of Illinois.

APPOINTMENT OF DR. OTTO L. SCHMIDT ON
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE ILLI-
NOIS STATE HISTORICAL
LIBRARY.

Governor Deneen has rendered a service to the Historical Society and to all persons interested in the cause of State history by the appointment on the board of trustees of the Illinois State Historical Library of Dr. Otto L. Schmidt of Chicago.

Dr. Schmidt fills the vacancy caused by the death of George N. Black. He is one of the early members of the State Historical Society and has been for years a

very active member and trustee of the Chicago Historical Society, and has given much efficient work to that organization. Dr. Schmidt has the interest of State and western history much at heart and the library board and the society are to be congratulated upon his appointment.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Upon the death of General Orendorff the president of the Historical Society, Colonel Clark E. Carr, the first vice president of the Society became the acting president. Colonel Carr has called a meeting of the board of directors of the Society for the afternoon of Thursday, December 2, 1909, to be held in the office of the secretary in the capitol building at Springfield. There will also be a meeting of the program committee for the morning of the same day to consider plans for the next annual meeting of the Society.

ABOUT ILLINOIS GOVERNORS.

Even in England not many of its scholars can recall, off-hand, in regular order, the names of its many rulers and sovereigns. And in Illinois, not yet a century old, but few can, without referring to books, repeat the list of its governors.

Ninety-one years ago last March Illinois was admitted into the Union as a state. Since that date it has had twenty-three governors, nineteen of whom were re-elected to that office by the people of the State, and four—Ewing, Wood, Beveridge and Hamilton—served unexpired terms by virtue of their position at the time as presiding officers of the Senate. Two of the governors, Cullom and Deneen were re-elected, and one, Oglesby, was three times elected governor. Five of them, Ewing, Yates, Sr., Oglesby, Palmer and Cullom, were subsequently elected

to the United States Senate, and one, Bissell, died before expiration of his term. Of their nativity, Bond, the first governor, and Edwards, the third, were born in Maryland; Coles and Fifer were natives of Virginia; Reynolds and Ford of Pennsylvania; Ewing, Duncan, Carlin, Yates, Sr., Oglesby, Palmer and Cullom, of Kentucky; French, Mattison, Bissell, Wood and Beveridge, of New York; Tanner of Indiana; Altgeld of Prussia, and Yates, Jr., and Deneen of Illinois.

The most of the Illinois governors were men of superior ability, strong individuality, and certain well-marked intellectual traits, well adapted in all respects for the arduous and responsible duties they assumed. Their messages to the Legislature, and other state papers, are reliable indices of the needs and requirements of a rapidly growing commonwealth, and collectively constitute a valuable epitome of its current history. All the governors have graciously left their portraits to adorn the "gallery of celebrities" in the State House. But one of them, Ford, prepared for posterity a comprehensive account of his administration, although Governor Palmer, late in life wrote an interesting book of his personal memoirs.* It would be a boon to future generations if the constitution made it mandatory that each chief executive should, within a year after retiring from office, file with the State Historical Library a full detailed history of what he and the Legislature did for the people during his tenure.

The splendid prominence of Illinois among the states of the Union reflects upon its governor a degree of honor, dignity and importance surpassed only by that of the presidency. This opinion was corroborated by Senator Cullom in a recently published interview. He was governor of Illinois when first elevated to the Senate, and has perhaps forgotten the "wire-pulling" that was necessary to attain that exalted promotion, and the great satisfac-

*Governor John Reynolds wrote two books relating to Illinois history, the *Pioneer History of Illinois* and "My Own Times."

tion it gave him at the time. At any rate, when asked the question, "What event in your experience has given you the greatest satisfaction?" he answered, "My election as governor of Illinois. I was younger then than I have been since, and I was more ambitious and perhaps more appreciative, but it has always seemed to me the greatest event in my life, and it gave me more pride and gratification than any honor that has ever been conferred upon me. I have always considered the governorship of Illinois as a higher office than that of a senator or a cabinet minister, and it ranks up pretty well with the presidency and the chief justiceship of the Supreme Court.

When I was a younger man I would have accepted the governorship in preference to a seat in the Senate if I had been allowed to choose, and I believe I would do so now. Illinois is a great state, and the governor of that state has a peculiar individuality among all other officials. He deals with the most independent and most intelligent community in this country, or in the world, for that matter. The population of no state in the Union, neither New York nor Pennsylvania nor Ohio nor Massachusetts nor any other, has so high a degree of intelligence or a more thorough appreciation of their rights and responsibilities as citizens as have the people of Illinois. I reckon that is the chief reason why they differ so strongly on public questions. When the people of Illinois get started they make themselves felt, and a man who can govern them successfully and retain their respect and his popularity is a mighty wise man."

ANECDOTE OF GENERAL E. D. BAKER.

Mr. James Affleck, an early resident of Belleville, Illinois, who died in 1905, at the age of 89 years, says, in his reminiscences of General Edward D. Baker, who was killed at Balls Bluffs during the civil war, "I knew him well. He was a noble young man, of fine appearance and accomplishments when he first came to Belleville,

and was then about fifteen or sixteen years of age, but in manner and conversation appeared older. He came here with his father and a younger brother, his mother having died before reaching here. It was between 1825 and 1830, but I can not recall the exact year. The three kept house, the younger boy acting the part of a domestic. They had evidently been in better circumstances than they were while living here. The father was reputed to be a fine scholar, and taught a subscription school here for some time, but he was so thoroughly English, holding everything in this country in such contempt that many of our people were free to express their contempt of him, intimating to him that the way was open for him to return to his own country if this didn't suit him, and refused to patronize his school. He left this place a few years later and moved to some northern town, where he died, and his youngest son was killed by a runaway team.

At the time they lived here everything was new and culture didn't count for much. And it must be admitted that Belleville at that time did not present a very enticing appearance. Young Edward D. Baker was a boy of rare talents, and though born in London, took a very different view of everything here from that of his father. His company was sought, and he was invited into the best society. His gentlemanly deportment, and fluent, intelligent conversation made him a welcome guest among the best classes. Young as he was he was keenly interested and stoutly defended the policies of the Whig party. He was a constant reader, and kept well posted in everything of a public nature then transpiring. One day one of our citizens found him sitting on a log out in the woods, near the village, reading a book and weeping bitterly. Approaching the boy he asked the cause of his grief. Wiping his eyes young Baker answered that he was, for the first time, reading the constitution of the United States, and found that only native born citizens were eligible to the presidency, and that was blighting to his future aspirations!"

THE ILLINOIS PARK COMMISSION.

Largely through the efforts of the LaSalle County Historical Society and the Chicago Geographical Society a bill was passed by the last General Assembly the primary object of which is to preserve from vandalism and commercialism Starved Rock and its surrounding land. According to the provisions of the bill the Governor has appointed the commission and he very appropriately recognized the labors of the LaSalle County Historical Society by appointing Mr. Alexander Richards, its secretary, a member of the commission. The Illinois State Historical Society is represented on the commission by the appointment of Prof. J. A. James, of Evanston, as one of its members.

A full list of the members of the commission is as follows: Wallace W. Atwood, Chicago; J. A. James, Evanston; Alexander Richards, Ottawa; Mrs. John C. Ames, State Regent of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Streator; Mrs. Frank B. Orr, Chicago. This commission may consider the merits of other historic localities of the State in addition to Starved Rock and may advise and devise means for their preservation.

We give the full text of the law, which is as follows:

INVESTIGATIONS—STARVED ROCK.

Preamble.		§ 2. Appropriates \$1,000.
§ 1. Appointment — ex-		How drawn.
penses.		§ 3. Duties—Report.

(House Bill No. 430. Approved June 9, 1909.)

AN ACT for the appointment of a commission to investigate and report on the preservation of certain lands for public parks for the State of Illinois, and to make an appropriation to pay the expenses of said commission.

WHEREAS, The historical spot where the great tribe of the Illini made their last stand, surrounded by Indians from the north, and the site of the French fort of Saint Louis, now known as Starved Rock, on the Illinois river, in LaSalle county, is worthy of being preserved and improved as a public park by the State of Illinois; and,

WHEREAS, There are other regions within the State of such historic interest or scenic beauty as to make their acquisition for State parks desirable:

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly:* That the Governor of the State be, and he is hereby authorized to appoint a commission of five members, to be known as the Illinois Park Commission. The members of said commission shall serve without compensation, except that their actual expenses, when necessarily absent from their homes on said business, shall be paid.

§ 2. There is hereby appropriated the sum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), for postage, stationary, printing, clerical and expert services, incidental and traveling expenses of the commission in the discharge of their duties; and the Auditor of Public Accounts is hereby authorized to draw his warrant for the foregoing amount, or any part thereof, upon presentation of itemized statements of such accounts, signed by a majority of said commission and approved by the Governor.

§ 3. The duties of this commission shall be: *First*—To make an investigation of Starved Rock and its contiguous territory, to ascertain its adaptability for the purposes of a State park, and the value of the property; also to make, at their discretion, a comparative study of other State parks within Illinois, and the manner in which they are organized and maintained.

Second—To make to the present General Assembly, or to the Forty-seventh General Assembly, a report containing such information, suggestions and recommenda-

tions respecting Starved Rock and adjacent territory, and respecting other regions in Illinois desirable for park purposes, as said commission shall deem advisable.

APPROVED June 9, 1909.

STATE ART COMMISSION.

At the last session of the General Assembly of the State a law was passed which authorized the formation of a State Art Commission whose duty it shall be to act in an advisory capacity in relation to any building to be built or remodeled by the State, any statuary or paintings which may be used by the State for the embellishment of any building or park owned by the State.

Governor Deneen appointed as the members of this commission: Carl Beil, Chicago; Frederick Clay Bartlett, Chicago; William Holabird, Chicago; Jens Jansen, Chicago; Lorado Taft, Chicago; Ralph Clarkson, Chicago; W. Corbys Zimmerman, Chicago; Edward J. Parker, Quincy.

These gentlemen, as is required by law, are all specialists in their several lines and professions.

We give the full text of the law organizing this commission.

ART.

STATE ART COMMISSION.

§ 1. Creation.		§ 3. Commission shall
§ 2. Composition		serve without com-
Ap-		pensation — Rules
pointment—Term		—Quorum.
—Vacancies.		
		§ 4. Duties.

(Senate Bill No. 415. Approved June 4, 1909.)

AN ACT to create a State Art Commission and to define its powers and duties.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly:* That there is hereby created a commission to be known as the State Art Commission of the State of Illinois.

§ 2. Said commission shall consist of two (2) painters, two (2) sculptors, two (2) architects, and two (2) other persons not engaged in any of the aforesaid pursuits, all to be citizens and residents of the State of Illinois, who shall be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate; and of the Governor, who shall be a member of said commission by virtue of his office. The Governor shall in the first instance appoint one (1) painter, one (1) sculptor, one (1) architect and one (1) other person whose terms of office shall expire two years from July 1, 1909; and one (1) painter, one (1) sculptor, one (1) architect and one (1) other person whose terms of office shall expire four years from July 1, 1909; and thereafter the terms of office of the members of said commission shall be four years: *Provided*, that if a vacancy occur for any reason in said commission the Governor shall appoint a person of the same class to fill said vacancy who shall serve until the end of the unexpired term of his predecessor.

§ 3. Said commission shall serve without compensation and shall have power to adopt its own rules and to elect such officers from its own members as may be deemed proper. Five (5) commissioners shall constitute a quorum for all purposes.

§ 4. It shall be the duty of the commission to act in an advisory capacity relative to the creation, acquisition, construction, erection or remodeling by the State, or upon any land owned by the State, of any work of art, and relative to the artistic character of any building constructed, erected, or remodeled by the State, or upon land owned by the State; and when, upon the request of the Governor, there shall be submitted to said commission

any plan, proposal or offer relating or looking to the creation, acquisition, construction, erection or remodeling by the State, or on land or in a building owned by the State, of any work of art, or relating to the erection, construction, or remodeling of a building to be owned by the State or on State land, and said plan, proposal or offer is accompanied by such designs, descriptions, specifications, drawings or models as shall be sufficient to enable the commission to determine the artistic character of said work of art or of said building, it shall be the duty of the commission to file with the Governor within sixty days from the submission of the matter descriptive of said work of art or buildings, its opinion, either approving or condemning the same; to which the commission may add such suggestions and recommendations as it deems proper; and the term "building" shall include structures intended for human occupation and use, and also all bridges, arches, gates, walls or other permanent structures of any character; and the term "work of art" as used herein is intended to include any painting, portrait, mural decoration, stained glass, statue, bas relief, ornament, fountain or any other article or structure of a permanent character intended for decoration or commemoration.

APPROVED June 4, 1909.

ILLINI CLUB, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS.

On November 30, 1909, the members of the Illini Club will issue the first number of their club paper, "The Sangamon County Searchlight." In this paper it is proposed to preserve the manuscripts of the club members which pertain to the history and important facts of the county. It is edited by Mrs. I. G. Miller.

To say that this study club does the most effective work of any club of like nature in Springfield is not to reflect upon the industry of any other club, as the ladies of

the Illini Club are most of them trained students, and their work has been most carefully planned and zealously carried on, under the leadership of Mrs. F. R. Jamison, the president or chairman of the club.

Mrs. Jamison, it will be remembered, gave at the 1908 annual meeting of the Illinois State Historical Society a delightful paper on early literature and literary people in Illinois.

The editor of the new organ of this club, Mrs. I. G. Miller, is also an enthusiastic student of local history. She gave the Historical Society, at the 1907 meeting, a most excellent paper on the Icarian community.

For several years the members of the Illini Club have given carefully prepared papers on historical subjects, and for some time but few of the manuscripts were preserved. We are glad to know that arrangements have been made by means of the "Sangamon County Searchlight" to preserve the results of the labors of the club.

Mrs. Jamison, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Bacchus and other members of the club are also members of the Illinois State Historical Society.

NEW AND RARE BOOKS IN THE HISTORICAL LIBRARY.

The Illinois State Historical Library Board has recently purchased in London from Henry Stevens, Sons & Stiles, a large number of rare books relating to the early history of Illinois and of the United States. These books relate to the early French period, the war of the revolution, the second war with Great Britain and are all of them rare and valuable, many of them excessively so. We will publish a list of them in the January number of the Journal.

VOLUME FIVE OF THE ILLINOIS HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS.

The board of trustees of the Illinois State Historical Library has nearly ready for distribution the fifth volume of the special series entitled "Illinois Historical Collections." This volume will be the Kaskaskia Records and will supplement the Cahokia Records which was issued as volume number two of the series. This work has been edited by Prof. C. W. Alvord, and he has prepared for it an introductory chapter which is a history of the period embraced by the records. It is printed by the Lakeside Press of Donnelley & Sons, Chicago.

THE GEORGE ROGERS CLARK PAPERS.

The Library board will shortly publish the George Rogers Clark papers which are being prepared for publication under the editorship of Prof. J. A. James of the Northwestern University. These volumes will be published in the Illinois Historical Collections series. Professor James will supply an introduction and there will be many valuable notes and much explanatory matter.

FINDS AN ANCIENT FLINTLOCK.

CLAM FISHER NEAR OLD FORT ATKINSON DIGS OUT OLD GUN.

FORT ATKINSON, WIS., Nov. 20.—An old flintlock musket was fished out of the Rock River near the site of the old fort here by August Steinks, digging for pearl clams. It is supposed to have been the weapon of one of General Atkinson's force in the Black Hawk campaign in 1832. One soldier was shot at this point and his remains were recently found, with remnants of soldier's clothing, when a near-by hill was leveled.

Interest in the old fort and the Black Hawk campaign was revived here when the Daughters of the Revolution recently raised a memorial tablet on a granite boulder, marking the location of the old stockade fort.

OLD FORT BELLE FONTAINE.

Mr. W. T. Norton, one of the directors of the Illinois State Historical Society, has contributed to the Alton Daily Times of a recent date, a very interesting sketch of Old Fort Belle Fontaine, comprising a history of its founding, occupation and decline.

HISTORY OF SANGAMON COUNTY.

The Munsell Publishing Company, of Chicago, which has in connection with its Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois issued histories of a large number of Illinois counties, has in prospect the publication of a history of Sangamon county.